

REMARKS

This Amendment After Final is being filed responsive to the September 16, 2005 final Office action that was issued in response to Applicant's August 29, 2005 Request for Continued Examination. This Amendment After Final is also being filed in response to an October 11, 2005 telephone interview between the Examiner and Applicant's undersigned attorney. Prior to entry of the above amendments, all pending claims were rejected as being anticipated by or obvious over the cited reference to Knox. While Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections, Applicant submits that the rejections are rendered moot by the above amendments. By the above amendments, the specification and claims 1-3, 10, 16, 18-19, 21, 23-28, and 32-33 are amended, and claims 22 and 29 are cancelled without prejudice. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the above amendments, and that each of the amendments is fully supported by the original specification. Applicant submits that the amendment to the specification is supported by the original disclosure, including Figs. 1 and 2. Reconsideration of the final Office action is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

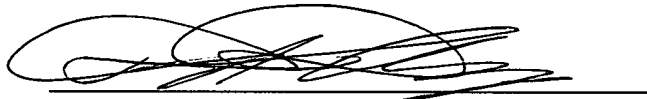
As an initial matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for her time and comments in a telephone interview on October 11, 2005 with Applicant's undersigned attorney. In the interview, claim 1 was discussed in view of the cited reference to Knox. It was agreed that the amendments to claim 1 would be made and that amended claim 1 patentably distinguishes Knox. It was further agreed that the "openings" recited in the pending claims would be replaced with "slits" not for reasons of patentability, but for consistency with the specification. More specifically, the original specification supports both terms,

but primarily uses the term "openings." In the interview, the Examiner requested that the pending claims utilize this term for consistency. It was agreed in the interview that the specification would be amended on page 7 to include the recited language. It was further agreed that no new matter was added by the amendments to the specification or claims.

With the entry of the above amendments, and for the reasons discussed herein, Applicant submits that all of the issues raised in the final Office action have been addressed and overcome. If there are any remaining issues or if the Examiner has any questions, Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at the number listed below. Similarly, if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview may be productive in advancing prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David S. D'Ascenzo", is written over a horizontal line.

David S. D'Ascenzo
Registration No. 39,952
PTO Customer No. 23581
Kolisch Hartwell, P.C.
520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 224-6655
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679